

# Sustainable Benician

News on Community Recycling & Waste Services



Sustainability in Action



## Plant a bountiful fall garden by adding compost.



Consider planting an extra row for Food is Free Bay Area or The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.

**Free Compost Giveaway**  
**Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am–1pm** **NEW LOCATION!**

Alvarez Ninth Street Park, Benicia

- Bring your own containers.
- No bags please.
- For Benicia Residents only and by appointment to reduce waiting time.

For instructions and to sign up, visit: [RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA](https://RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA) and look for the "Compost Giveaway Signup" button.

**Have questions?** Want to be added to the reminder email blast? Contact [MKnutson@RepublicServices.com](mailto:MKnutson@RepublicServices.com)

**Happy Gardening!**

### DID YOU KNOW?

California throws away **MORE THAN 6 MILLION TONS** of foodwaste every year! —CalRecycle

## Food Rescue: The Law, Why, and What's Happening in Solano County

**Free online class**  
**Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 6–7pm**

To receive link, register at [SustainableSolano.org](https://SustainableSolano.org)  
(See calendar. Click on June 19.)

*This presentation is funded by Republic Services. We appreciate Sustainable Solano's efforts to help the environment. To see more events and learn more about them visit [SustainableSolano.org](https://SustainableSolano.org)*

SB 1383 is a California law requiring residents and businesses to put food and food-soiled paper in their organics/greenwaste bin. The law also addresses food insecurity and requires that edible food go to people in need, not in the trash. But what's a grocery store or restaurant to do? And what should folks do at home? Special guests, Heather Pierini of Food is Free Bay Area and Karen Collins, Food Resource Manager at the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano will provide updates on how edible food is being rescued in Solano County. Learn about "Best By..." versus true expiration dates, what these organizations accept, how restaurants are making it work, plus ideas on how you can help. Sustainable Solano staff will moderate the discussion, with a Q&A at the end.

# Congratulations to our 2023 Eco Award Winners!

Each year, the City of Benicia and Republic Services work together to award the annual "Eco Awards" recipients. The Eco Awards recognize local commercial organizations for their superior sustainability efforts and for setting a positive example for others through their recycling efforts. The following businesses were recognized at the March 19, 2024 Council meeting.



(Left to Right) Mayor Steve Young; Mare Island Brewery's First Street Tap House Restaurant Manager Dan Mueller; Mare Island Brewery Director Cheryl Lytle; and Co-Founder Ryan Gibbons

**Mare Island Brewing Co. First Street Taphouse**, which opened in July of 2021, have taken great care to keep their enclosure clean and locked to prevent illegal dumping. They source separate their waste well and divert a lot from the landfill. Their audits, including food waste, have been clean and they have been great

to work with. Thank you to Restaurant Manager Dan Mueller, Director Cheryl Lytle, Co-Founder Ryan Gibbons and the First Street Taphouse employees for being leaders in environmental stewardship.

## **Robert Semple Elementary**

volunteered to be the first school in Benicia to have recycling and food waste collection in their cafeteria in 2018. They were the pilot school and set the tone for the entire district. This team utilizes staff and fellow students to remind the children "what goes where." They do this daily. The audits have been clean, which shows it's working. That is quite a feat with hundreds of students and multiple lunch periods. A special thanks to Principal Christina Moore and especially to Custodian Maria Marroquin for their hard work and support. Maria was instrumental in making the program a success. Thank you for inspiring youth to embrace sustainability.



(Left to Right) Mayor Steve Young; Robert Semple Elementary School Principal Christina Moore, Robert Semple Elementary School Custodian Maria Marroquin. Also thank you to Robert Semple Office Specialist Lisa Wolfe (not pictured).

**Sunset Villas** is a multi-family unit complex located on Sunset Circle. The residents are doing very well with recycling and especially organics collection. Their trash and recycling enclosures are all very clean. A special thank you to Denise Campos, who worked hard to deliver kitchen pails and work with the tenants.

## Making the Right Planning Choices For Your Next Party



Having a party? Make the right choices for the environment when planning your summer BBQ, wedding, or graduation party. Hosts and hostesses often forget the long-term price paid for the short-term convenience of the wrong single-use items for parties.

Remember that all foodwaste and food-soiled paper can go in your greenwaste bin.

**The first choice** is always to use real dishes, glasses, silverware, cloth napkins, and garden greenery for decorations.

**The second choice** would be thick paper plates, especially if they are made from recycled content. The best ones are not shiny on both sides. These and paper napkins can go in your green compost bin, as well as bamboo single-use utensils that can be found online.

**Worst choice** is Styrofoam (cups or plates), plastic plates, single-use plastic knives, forks, and spoons.

**Important:** ALL "COMPOSTABLE KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS, AND CUPS GO IN THE TRASH. They don't breakdown fast enough at our composting facility.

**Making the right choice in advance helps fight climate change and reduces your trash.**

**Coming Soon!** In the next issue of Sustainable Benician, watch for information on household hazardous waste items that will be allowed for drop off at the Benicia Corporation Yard collection facility starting this fall.

Learn more about services specific to Benicia: [RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA](https://RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA)